

Appl. No. 10/069,608
Amdt. dated Aug. 14, 2003
Reply to Office action of Apr. 14, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Replace the heading on page 1, line 25 with the following amended heading:

B | SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Replace the paragraph on page 4, line 28 with the following amended paragraph:

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Figure 2 shows a situation involving an ISP 8. In addition, the modem 3 (see FIG. 1) and the activation module 6 are combined into one unit incorporating both functions. The operation is preferably identical to that of figure 1; the connection between the server 2 and the terminal 7, however, runs via an ISP server 8 (see FIG. 2) connected to the PSTN or ISDN on the one hand and to the IP network 1 on the other hand, which server can be selected by the terminal 7 via the PSTN or ISDN 5.

Replace the paragraph on page 5, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

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Via the network 5 the module 6 therefore makes a connection between a terminal 7 and the server 2, for which purpose module 6 (~~not explicitly shown~~) comprises means for receiving (not explicitly shown) an activation code (a) from the server 2

b3

and subsequently activating the terminal 7, preferably in accordance with the value of the received activation code. In the embodiment shown, the value of the activation code comprises an identifier (CLI) of the network node 9 used by the server 2. Furthermore, it is also possible that the module 6 comprises means for detecting a terminal-status code (d), relating to the status of the terminal 7, and for passing on this status code via the network 5 to the server 2. In particular, it is envisaged that the status code indicates whether the terminal is active ("on") or inactive ("off"), so that the server 2 knows whether it can or cannot send a message to the terminal. Such a message has in particular the form of an "alert" or notification message that, after the server 2, on the basis of the latest terminal status code, knows that the terminal 7 is "on", can be sent via the activation module 6 to the terminal 7. Such an "alert" can therefore be sent via the network 5 without the terminal 7 being connected to the first network, e.g. the internet 1. The advantage of this is, amongst other things, that it eliminates the need for the rather lengthy log-in procedure to the ISP 8 for access to the internet, while it is still possible to receive (short) messages from the server 2. These messages can - in particular if the network 5 is an ISDN network - be not only

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"alert" messages, but also SMS messages, known in particular from mobile telephony. These messages can be sent to the server 2 either by users 12,13 of network 5 or by users of the first network, e.g. the internet 1. The server 2 then sends with the activation code either a notification message or the SMS message itself to the module 6 and via this module to the activated terminal 7.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 11 through page 7, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

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Some of these elements are shown in the embodiment of the platform in-~~fig-~~ FIGS. 4A-D. Whenever there is a new voicemail waiting for a ~~subscriber~~ subscriber to the service according to the invention the voicemail server 14 in-~~fig-~~ FIG. 4A might send the telephone number (e.g. 070-3755660) to the alert server 15 in-~~fig-~~ FIG. 4B. Moreover a chatter might be requesting an off line chat buddy to join in a chat session. The offline chat buddy might be identified by an e-mail ~~address~~ address (e.g. jan@hetnet.nl). This e-mail ~~address~~ address is forwarded by a chat server 16 in-~~fig-~~ FIG. 4A to the alert server 15. In a client database 17 (~~fig-~~ FIG. 4B) client information 18 might be stored such as e-mail ~~address~~ address, telephone number and whether the client is a subscriber to the service. The alert

server 15 translates an incoming alert with e-mail ~~address~~address to the appropriate alert telephone number and client telephone number. For the latter the client database 17 is used. Both telephone numbers are forwarded to a call server 19 as shown in ~~fig.~~ FIG. 4C. The alert telephone number corresponding to an e-mail or chat alert might be configurable. The call server 19 calls to a client telephone number from an alert telephone number and hangs up immediately to avoid incurring call setup charges. Using e.g. the calling line identifier (CLI), the calling (alert) telephone number is identified allowing the appropriate alert message to be displayed, either as a LED 20 on the activation module 21 or as a popup 22 on a pc 23 as shown in ~~fig.~~ FIG. 4D. The activation module 21 might be a caller display device using CLI to identify the callers number. Each LED 20 on the activation module 21 can be programmed to light up in response to a particular caller. The LCD screen might show the ~~eallers~~caller's number. In addition, the activation module might have voicemail LED which might light up whenever a telephone call is not answered. The popup 22 on the pc 23 might display alert messages in response to certain caller numbers. With e.g. one mouse click users can respond to an alert automatically resulting in the pc 23 going online

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to the correct webpage. The caller numbers and
the corresponding alert messages can be
(re)programmed or ~~synchronised~~synchronized by
e.g. the ISP when the client is online.
